

# Tolman High School

## Grade 10 Advanced Standing (AS) English

Mr. Mason

A major component of the grade 10 AS English class is reading, analyzing and responding to American literature. The major themes of this literature that we will respond to this year are equality, diversity, immigration, war and racism. The selections chosen all respond to one or more of these themes, are fairly current and have been of high interest to a diverse group of readers. The summer reading requirement is an important part of the AS program because it serves to keep you active as a reader, lays the groundwork for interesting discussion as we read other American authors, and sharpens your interpretive and analytical skills.

You will read three of the following five books over the summer:

1. The Color of Water by James McBride
2. In Revere, In Those Days by Roland Merulo
3. Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri
4. The Things They Carry by Tim O'Brien
5. Old School by Tobias Wolff

You may obtain these books from the Pawtucket Public Library. They have been informed of your needs and you may see, Robin, the reference librarian for help in obtaining these selections. Please act quickly to ensure your success.

You will complete the following assignments and hand them in during the first week of school.

1. As you read each selection, keep a reading journal of your *impressions* of the author's subject matter, characters, ideas, issues and themes, as well as the style the author uses to convey message. Cite textual examples. Also include personal connections and universal connections you discover.
2. Interview someone from a very different culture from yours and use one of Jhumpa Lahiri's selections or a selection from James McBride's book to formulate questions. Compare the insights of your subject with those of the author and write a report on your interview and conclusions.

Enjoy these readings and have a great summer!